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NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

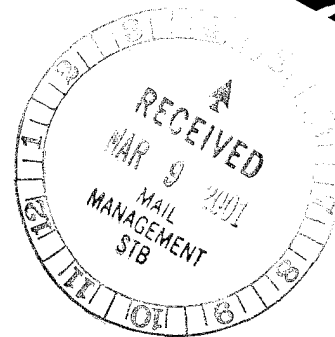
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March 9, 2001



Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001  
ATTN: STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1) Oral Argument

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1)  
Major Rail Consolidation Procedures

Dear Secretary Williams:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) wishes to participate in the oral argument scheduled for April 5, 2001. Amtrak's argument will focus on three issues on which Amtrak can offer a unique perspective as the only party in this proceeding that operates trains over all of the Class I railroads that have merged during the past few years:

- (i) the need for more specificity in Service Assurance Plan requirements;
- (ii) ensuring that there is sufficient additional rail line and yard capacity to accommodate changes in freight operations; and
- (iii) ensuring that key rail lines are in good condition before mergers are implemented.

Amtrak requests 10 minutes to present its argument, which will be presented by undersigned counsel.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. G. Slattery".

Richard G. Slattery  
Senior Associate General Counsel

ENTERED  
Office of the Secretary

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Public Record